

Applicant : Xiaoli Fu, et al.
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Attorney's Docket No.: 13854-067001

REMARKS

Claim 1-19 and 21-29 are pending, of which claims 12-15 and 29 were previously withdrawn. Claims 1 and 11 are currently amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the action mailed August 8, 2005, is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,804,467 to Colbourne et al. (hereinafter "Colbourne"). The Examiner rejected claims 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colbourne. Applicant traverses the rejections.

The Examiner has allowed claims 16-19 and 21-28. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 16-19 and 21-28.

Section 102 Rejections

Claim 1 stands rejected as anticipated by Colbourne. Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a dispersion compensation module that includes a polarization beam splitter positioned between a first and second etalon such that a light beam from the first reflection etalon passes, without deflection, through the polarization beam splitter to the second reflection etalon.

The Examiner states that FIG. 6 of Colbourne discloses the dispersion compensation module of claim 1. In particular, the Examiner states that the y-beam displacer 102 of FIG. 6 is the same as the Applicant's claimed polarization beam splitter. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In FIG. 6 of Colbourne, a y-beam displacer is positioned between a pair of etalons. *See* FIG. 6; col. 9, lines 48-53. A light beam having a first polarization passes through the y-beam displacer without deflection to the first etalon. *See* FIG. 6; col. 9, lines 11-15. The first etalon includes a quarter waveplate where upon reflection from the first etalon, the polarization of the light beam has been rotated such that the light beam is deflected by the y-beam displacer. *See* FIG. 6; col. 9, lines 15-18 and 50-52. The deflection directs the beam to the second etalon. *See* FIG. 6; col. 9, lines 42-45.

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The y-beam displacer disclosed by Colbourne is distinct from the claimed polarization beam splitter. A y-beam displacer is a birefringent material. Thus, the y-beam displacer allows light beams having a first polarization to pass directly through the birefringent material while refracting light of a second polarization upon incidence, causing the light beam to follow a divergent path within the y-beam displacer. See FIG. 6; col.9, lines 7-40.

In contrast, a polarization beam splitter as claimed provides a structure, which either passes or reflects a light beam depending on the polarization. Light having a first polarization is allowed to pass directly through the polarization beam splitter without deflection or reflection while a light beam having a second polarization is deflected (e.g., through reflection) by the polarization beam splitter at a separating point within the polarization beam splitter. For example, a polarization beam splitter can reflect a light beam in a direction substantially orthogonal to the path of a passed beam.

Claim 1 requires a polarization beam splitter positioned between a first and second etalon such that light passing a light beam from the first reflection etalon passes, without deflection, through the polarization beam splitter to the second reflection etalon. Consequently, because of the structure of a polarization beam splitter, if the light beam is not reflected, the light beam passes through the polarization beam splitter without divergence from the incident path. In contrast, the y-beam displacer of Colbourne deflects incident light passing from the first etalon to the second etalon in order to redirect the light beam within the y-beam displacer. Colbourne does not disclose or suggest a polarization beam splitter positioned between a first and second etalon such that light passing a light beam from the first reflection etalon passes, without deflection, through the polarization beam splitter to the second reflection etalon. The Applicant respectfully requests that claim 1, as well as claims 2-10, which depend from claim 1, are in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 stands rejected as anticipated by Colbourne. Claim 11, as amended, is directed to a dispersion compensation module including an etalon assembly that directs an optical signal reflected from a first reflection etalon to enter a second port of a polarization beam splitter and pass, without deflection, through the polarization beam splitter to second reflection etalon

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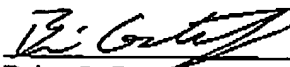
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coupled to the third port of the polarization beam splitter. Colbourne does not disclose or suggest a polarization beam splitter that directs an optical signal from a first reflection etalon to a second reflection etalon without deflection. For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8 November, 2005



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